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Ministerial Conference Thirteenth Session Abu Dhabi, 26-29 February 2024

## **WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**

## COMMUNICATION FROM SAMOA ON BEHALF OF THE ACP GROUP

The following communication<sup>1</sup>, dated 16 February 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Samoa on behalf of the ACP Group.

## **DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION**

Ministerial Decision of \_\_\_\_ February 2024

The Ministerial Conference:

Takes note of the efforts to reinvigorate the 1998 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce through Dedicated Discussions, which included the exchange of good practices, submissions from Members on specific topics, and a workshop organized with international organizations,

Decides to instruct Members to further increase engagement under the Work Programme, with  $\frac{\text{WT/L/274}}{\text{USE}}$  used as the basis for such work, especially with a continued focus on the development dimension,

Mandates the WTO's continued collaboration with other international organizations and relevant stakeholders to enhance coordination to address the main challenges related to e-commerce, including those highlighted in the Dedicated Discussions, such as the need for training and capacity building,

 $Agrees\ to$  maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministerial Conference, and

Agrees to hold further deliberations and gather empirical evidence on the scope, definition, and impact of the moratorium, with periodic updates to the meetings of the General Council as well as on the Work Programme.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This communication is also contained as an Annex in document <u>WT/GC/W/916/Rev.1</u> circulated by the WTO on 16 February 2024. This communication is submitted for the sole purpose of presenting the Annex for consideration by Ministers at MC13.